

Wax Classes

All wax should be bright in colour, with a good smell. Generally, the lighter the colour, the finer the wax. Never use bleaching agents, judges will downgrade the score if they suspect it has been used.

There are many 'recipes' and methods to process wax cappings and free comb into wax suitable to show. A short article by BBKA Honey Show Judge, John Goodwin on preparing beeswax for show can be found here: [showwax.pdf](#)

Wax Blocks

These classes generally require several identical items that should match in appearance and weight.

- Check the schedule for size and weight requirements
- Blocks should have a 'buttercup yellow' colour and have a nice aroma when rubbed
- Each block should be well cast with no moulding faults and flat topped. The base should be free of inclusions and water drops
- Blocks are usually displayed on white paper plates – check the schedule for guidance

Beeswax Cake

- The show schedule will usually call for a cake of wax of a specific weight and thickness
- The cake must be smooth and glossy, free from any marks, scratches or blemishes and have no bubbles in them anywhere
- Present your wax cake attractively – showcases are available

General guidance and tips

- Select your brightest colour wax. The preferred colour is 'buttercup yellow'
- Don't overheat the wax or it will go brown
- Make sure the moulds are clean and dry. Pre-heat the mould so no lines form on the sides of the cake/block
- Use a release agent - lightly smear the mould with silicone spray. A thin layer of washing-up liquid or petroleum-based oil also works well
- Take wax for the mould from the top layer in the melting pot, try not to disturb any sediment

- Pour the wax slowly but continuously into each mould. Pouring from a low height will ensure that you don't get a 'tidal wave' of wax up the side of the container
- Wax cools quickly. Avoid walking anywhere near moulds for at least ½ hour after pouring to prevent a wavy surface.
- Putting the moulds in the freezer for an hour can help when removing the wax
- Gently smooth any sharp edges using the (very clean) palm of your hand or finger
- If you can, make extra and pick the best!
- Old blocks/wax products suffer surface damage and lose their scent. Make fresh for each show or season

Candles

Producing candles for show requires two things - a beautiful piece of beeswax and a candle that burns properly and gives off a nice, steady light! The show schedule will generally classify candles as 'moulded' or 'not moulded' but may specify a technique such as 'dipped'.

Candles are all about safety. Ensure your candles fit the holder you present them in, and that they are safe to light and can be left burning for up to 20 minutes (but check your schedule for guidance as it can differ per show).

Dipped candles

Dipped candles are made by repeatedly dipping a wick into melted wax until the desired thickness is achieved. It takes some time and patience, but the end result is well worth it, especially when entering a honey show.

Preparation sheet available on the TTVBKA website - [Dipped-Candles.pdf](#)

Moulded candles

There are many types of candle moulds on the market – rigid or flexible, tall or short, tapered, circular or square, simple or elaborately shaped. Moulded candles are generally easy to make but require more care and precision when creating for show.

Rascal Apiary have an easy-to-follow video of the entire process - [Beeswax Candle Making](#)

Poured candles

Poured candles are made by pouring wax down the wick. The main advantage of this type is they can be made to any required length.

Rolled Candles

Made by rolling sheets of beeswax around a primed wick, Rolled Candles are probably the easiest and least messy type of candle to make. This style of candle is not usually included in a show but possibly in a display class.

General guidance & tips

- The beeswax for candles must be prepared to the same standard as for showing in the beeswax classes
- The wick must be correct thickness for the size of candle and be centred in the candle (check the base for placement)
- The wick should be waxed so that it stands well and is easy to light
- Check your candles burn right (make extra)
 - The flame should be bright and even, no tall smoky flames, no spitting or hissing (due to included water)
 - The wick should curve so it does not smoke
 - No deposits collecting on the wick
 - No smouldering (beyond about 20 seconds) when blown out (not extinguished by other means)
 - After cooling, the candle must re-light easily
- Fancy shapes may not light or burn well – always check with a test candle as above
- If the class requires several identical candles, they should all match in appearance, e.g. colour, shape, symmetry
- Present your candles upright in firm fireproof candlesticks/holders unless instructed otherwise in the schedule
- Moulded candles – the mould shape should be clear and well-defined, no join mark must show, and no release agent should remain, smooth surfaces must be really smooth and glossy
- Well-made Dipped Candles will always gain more points than Moulded candles due to the amount of skill involved
- Rolled candles should be rolled very tightly and evenly. The base should be flat, and the wick central. Air gaps will cause the wick to splutter and burn unevenly

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